

I. Listing of Claims

1. (Original) An armrest adapted to be pivotally mounted on an armrest support disposed between an adjacent pair of rear vehicle seats, the armrest comprising:

a elongated base having a frame defining a first end and a second end, an upper surface, and a padded lower surface, wherein the first end of the base is adapted to be pivotally mounted on the armrest support; and

a elongated lid having a frame defining a first end and a second end, a lower surface, and a padded upper surface, wherein the first end of the lid is pivotally mounted on the base proximate to the second end of the base for movement between a closed position and an open position, the closed position being characterized in that the lower surface of the lid overlies at least a portion of the upper surface of the base proximate to the second end of the base, and the open position being characterized by a predetermined nonzero angle defined between the lower surface of the lid and the upper surface of the base,

wherein the lower surface of the lid is defined at least in part by a video display screen.

2. (Original) The armrest of claim 1, wherein the lid pivotally supports the video display screen for pivoting movement about a generally-horizontal first screen axis when the lid is in the open position.

3. (Original) The armrest of claim 2, wherein the lid further supports the video display screen for pivoting movement about a second screen axis generally normal to the first screen axis when the lid is in the open position.

4. (Original) The armrest of claim 1, wherein the lid substantially overlies the entire upper surface of the base.

5. (Original) The armrest of claim 1, wherein movement of the lid about the second pivot axis to the open position is limited by engagement of an end portion of the lid, proximate to the first end of the lid, with an end portion of the base, proximate to the second end of the base.

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6. (Original) The armrest of claim 1, wherein the base houses a video source accessible from the upper surface of the base.

7. (Original) The armrest of claim 1, wherein the video source defines a raised portion of the upper surface of the base, and wherein the lid includes a recessed portion complementary to the raised portion of the upper surface of the base.

8. (Original) The armrest of claim 6, wherein one of the base and lid houses an infrared transmitter for transmitting audio signals to a remote infrared receiver.

9. (Original) The armrest of claim 6, wherein one of the base and lid houses an infrared receiver for receiving control signals from a remote infrared transmitter.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The armrest automotive seat assembly of claim 10 21, wherein the base houses a video source that is electrically connected to the video display screen.

12. (Currently Amended) The armrest automotive seat assembly of claim 11, wherein the video source defines a raised portion of the upper surface of the base, and wherein the lid includes a recessed portion complementary to the raised portion of the upper surface of the base.

13. (Currently Amended) The armrest automotive seat assembly of claim 12, wherein the video source includes an exposed slot adapted to receive electronic media.

14. (Currently Amended) The armrest automotive seat assembly of claim 10 21, wherein the frame of the lid pivotally supports the video display screen for pivoting movement about a second pivot axis generally parallel to the first pivot axis.

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15. (Currently Amended) The ~~armrest~~ automotive seat assembly of claim 14, wherein ~~the frame of the lid further supports the video display screen for pivoting movement about a third pivot axis generally normal to the second pivot axis.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~armrest~~ automotive seat assembly of claim 10 21, wherein movement of the lid about the first pivot axis to the open position is limited by engagement of an end portion of the lid, proximate to the first end of the lid, with an end portion of the base, proximate to the second end of the base.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~armrest~~ automotive seat assembly of claim 10 21, wherein a first portion of the upper surface of the base proximate to the first end of the base is padded.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~armrest~~ automotive seat assembly of claim 10 21, wherein the lower surface of the lid substantially overlies the entire upper surface of the base.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~armrest~~ automotive seat assembly of claim 10 21, wherein one of the base and lid houses an infrared transmitter for transmitting audio signals to a remote infrared receiver.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~armrest~~ automotive seat assembly of claim 10 21, wherein one of the base and lid houses an infrared receiver for receiving control signals from a remote infrared transmitter.

21. (New) An automotive seat assembly comprising:
a pair of rear seats;
an armrest disposed between the pair of rear seats, the armrest including:
an elongated base defining first and second opposing ends, wherein the first end of the base is pivotably mounted between the pair of rear seats; and
an elongated lid defining a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the lid is pivotally mounted on the base adjacent to the second end of the base for movement between a closed position and an open position, the closed

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position being characterized in that the lid overlies at least a portion of the base, and the open position being characterized by a predetermined nonzero angle defined between the lid and the base,

wherein the lid includes a video display screen located so as to be viewable when the lid is in the open position.

22. (New) The automotive seat assembly of claim 21, wherein the base includes a padded lower surface and the lid includes a padded upper surface.

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